



## DigiAmphorae Project

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At the beginning of 2023, a major international project – „DigiAmphorae“ funded by the Erasmus+ programme was launched with the aim of creating a modern educational product for students in Classical archaeology.

The project was created through the initiative of NNEC-UNESCO – Sofia, Bulgaria, with the following partners: Musée du Louvre – Paris, France; Institutul de Studii Sud-Est Europene – Bucharest, Romania; University of Library Studies and Information Technologies – Sofia, Bulgaria; History Museum of Primorsko, Bulgaria and Student Computer Art Society (SCAS) – Sofia, Bulgaria.

Distinguished specialists participating in the project include: Prof. Vasilika Lungu, Institute for Southeast European Studies in Bucharest; Alexandre Baralis, archaeologist at the Antiquities Department of the Louvre; Pierre Dupont, University of Lyon; Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Velez, University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, Sofia; Assoc. Prof. Petar Balabanov, Director of the National Centre for Education and Culture at NNEC–UNESCO, Sofia; Assoc. Prof. Tosho Spiridonov, Director of the National Centre for Digitalization of NNEC–UNESCO, Sofia, and Eng. Dr. Rosen Petkov, Head of SCAS, Sofia.

The main aim of the project is to develop a database of the imported amphorae from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC, found on the Western shore of the Black Sea and in the inland areas of the historical regions of Thrace and Dacia. The online database will be accessible to all institutions of higher education, research institutes and museums, as well as to specialists from various fields interested in this array of artefacts.

The product takes into account the experience of various resources in this field, such as the database of the Alexandrian Centre for Amphora Studies. It will offer photographic and graphic documentation, while information on specific artefacts will include the find-spot and complex, place of preservation, technological characteristics, associated artefacts, dating and bibliographic references. A state-of-the-art 3-D imaging system, provided by UNIBIT, will be used experimentally to photograph the objects. An essential contribution to the database will be the chemical analyses of the amphora clay, performed by Professors Pierre Dupont and Vasilika Lungu.

In addition to the catalogue of artefacts, an extensive bibliography on Greek amphorae from this period will be added to the database. It will also include available online publications on the subject, as well as general information on the trade in amphorae along the Western shore of the Black Sea during the Classical and Hellenistic periods and the main centres where amphorae were produced during these periods.

The database will be available free of charge to all potential users and will include the potential for future enrichment and development.

In addition to the database, the project will produce a series of educational films with text in four languages (Bulgarian, French, English and Romanian). They will show contemporary methods and practical activities for documenting and researching ancient amphorae. Again, there will be free access for all those interested in the subject.

In the course of the project, a number of authoritative specialists from Bulgaria, Romania and other countries will be involved in various activities. Students from the participating countries will have a significant role in the implementation of specific projects. They will participate in a thematic summer school to be held in the town of Primorsko.

The project is expected to involve consultants and volunteer assistants not only from the participating countries but also from other countries with important contributions to the field of Greek amphorae. Academic seminars will be organized and scientific studies related to the project, as well as new perspectives, will be published under the aegis of the project.